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Allen-Scott Report

IRS Probes Bobby Baker

Cy ROBERT S. ALLEN AND PAUL SCOTT



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While the Senate is noisily emperations.

At IRS request, the Senate emocratic Campaign Commitee has turned over its files on ampaign contributions and disoursements for the years 1953-3. when Baker was secretary of the majority.

During this seven-year period, ne played an important backstage role in the committee's farlung political operations. It was common knowledge in Democratic circles, especially among senatorial candiates, that Baker received and disbursed large sums of campaign contributions.

For example: At the height of the tense 1962 congressional elections, he visited a number of states as the campaign committee's representative to determine how much financial aid would be given the Democratic senatorial candidates.

George Smathers, Senator Fla., who the investigation has disclosed had business ties with Baker, was then committee chairman.

The decision to make the committee's records available to the Revenue Service was made by Senator Warren Magnuson, Wash., current chairman. He reached this determination in response to the IRS' explanation that it wanted these financial files to check them against Baker's income tax returns.

It was the IRS angle that brought to the Senate Rules Committee the dynamite-loaded affidavit from accountant Milton Hauft charging his name had been forged on some of Baker's returns.

The IRS probe is particularly troiled in bitter partisan wrang-significant, as the Democratic lng over the continuance of the members of the investigating sensational Bobby Baker investi- committee have holly opposed ation, the Internal Revenue Serv- Republican demands for a full ce is quietly expanding its probairing of Baker's tax reports. ng of his multifarious financial The Democrats have contended this is outside the committee's scope - an interpretation strenuously challenged by the GOP.

Meanwhile, Senator John Williams, R-Del., veteran man investigating committee, whose charges precipitated the Baker probe, is conducting his own inquiry into the latter's handling of campaign funds.

Williams has an affidavit that Baker conferred with a top Teamster official during the 1960 pre - convention contest, From other sources, Williams has information that Baker received sizable Teamster contributions during this period - when Baker was very active

for then - Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon Johnson.

that Baker conferred in New "That is correct." York City with the late Presihis fall campaign for the White some members of the committee

If the investigating committee, refuses to go into these matters, in the testimony which indicates it is Williams' intention to air them in detail in a Senate some \$700,000 worth of stock to

A key issue behind the stormy its development, and that this partisan clashing over continutions stock would be issued at less ance of the probe is the strong than the market value. The Republican suspicion that a committee has been able to unnumber of high-placed officials earth the issuance of between made big profits by buying \$100,000 and \$200,000 of the stock, shares of the Mortgage & Guar- but as to more than \$500,000

Potently reinforcing the GOP belief is the vehemence of the Democrats' hostility to digging into the affairs of "MAGIC." They have violently fought that.

The Republicans have unavailingly sought the list of the cempany's stockholders. The Democrats contend this is not pertinent to an investigation of Baker's activities.

The GOP has information that at least four senators and certain high administration officials were let in on the lush "MAGIC" melon.

Neither side has mentioned any names. But a significant discussion of this backstage bombshell occurred during one of the hot Senate clashes over the investigation. Highlights of this unnoticed exchange are as

Senator Frank Lausche, D, Ohio: "As I understand it, some members of the committee want the records of 'MAGIC' brought in so as to be able to trace the Also in Senator Williams' pos-orders issuing stock and the session are documented reports sources of such stock."

Lausche: "Is it the belief of House, and allegedly turned that stock was issued to others than those identified in testiover a large amount of money. mony before the committee?"

Scott: "Yes. There is evidence persons who could be helpful in anty Insurance .. Co., Milwau- worth of the stock we know kee, at bargain basement nothing. We believe it was isprices. The probe has disclosed sued, but we have no proof. We that Baker made a killing in have not had the opportunity to "MAGIC" speculation.